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IDENTICAL LETTERS DATED 22 FEBRUARY 2000 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF IRAQ TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL AND TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

On instructions from my Government, I have the honour to transmit to you herewith a letter dated 21 February 2000 from Mr. Mohammed Said Al-Sahaf, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Iraq, giving details of the aggression committed by United States and British aircraft against civilian and services-related installations in Iraq on 19 February 2000.

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Saeed H. HASAN
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

Annex

Identical letters dated 21 February 2000 from the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Iraq addressed to the Secretary-General and to the President of the Security Council

Further to my letter of 14 February 2000 (S/2000/123, annex), I should like to inform you that three Iraqi citizens were wounded in the latest act of malicious aggression committed by United States and British aircraft. Details of this criminal act are given hereunder.

From 1550 hours on 19 February 2000, eight hostile formations coming from Turkish airspace and supported by an AWACS aircraft carried out 16 armed sorties in which they overflew areas of Dokuk, Irbil and Ninawa governorates. They attacked civilian and services-related installations, and three innocent citizens were wounded as a result. The number of missions thus far flown by United States and British aircraft from Turkish airspace since the treacherous act of general aggression of December 1998 is thus 3,314.

From 1150 hours on the same day, 13 formations of United States and British aircraft carried out 26 missions from Saudi airspace and eight from Kuwaiti airspace. They were supported by an AWACS aircraft inside Saudi airspace and an E-2C aircraft inside Kuwaiti airspace. The aircraft attacked civilian and services-related installations in areas of Basrah, Dhi Qar, Wasit, Maysan, Qadisiyah and Najaf governorates. The number of armed sorties thus far flown by aircraft from Saudi and Kuwaiti airspace since the criminal aggression against Iraq of December 1998 is thus 15,514.

The United States and British aggression against a steadfast Iraq has come to constitute their fixed policy for the achievement of their political objectives aimed at undermining the country's sovereignty, independence and territorial integrity.

By the most elementary standards of international intercourse, the declared policy of the leaders of the two countries in question constitutes flagrant violation of the Charter of the United Nations and all the principles of international law affirming that the use or threat of use of force against the integrity or independence of any State must be rejected.

The Government of the Republic of Iraq, which views the countries in question as bearing full international responsibility for these acts of aggression and provocation and for their consequences and the damage caused by them, reserves in full its inalienable right to take the measures necessary to defend the inviolability and sovereignty of Iraq's territory and the security of its people as well as its right to seek compensation for all the losses it has sustained in human, material and moral terms owing to these same acts, in accordance with the principle of international responsibility.

(Signed) Mohammed Said AL-SAHAF
Minister for Foreign Affairs
of the Republic of Iraq